

INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF STUDENTS OF PHYSIOTHERAPY COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN KARNATAKA: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Information seeking behaviour is the human activities with respect to searching various sources, channels including use of that information. The purpose of study is proven the information seeking and behavior of physiotherapy college student the study adopted a survey method. Data were collected from 1037 out of 1200 students. A finding tells that guidance was needed for the student to seek the information and also other resources available in the library. The study shows that the student's positive side of seeking information in there course related information.

KEYWORDS: *Information, Information Seeking Behavior, Bachelor of Physiotherapy, Physiotherapy Library & Library Users and Resources*

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INTRODUCTION

Information is a human product. It is an important resource that it contributes towards the development of a nation. It provides the core for the development of knowledge, the basis for innovations, the resources for informed citizenry and as a result, it becomes a key commodity for the progress of a society. The significance of information in national development, Wasserman (1991, p. 38) noted that "it is not an accident that the developed nations are those, in which, information products and services have been brought into being, and are widely exploited first in conventional forms and later through computer intervention."

Information is one such essential commodity next to food, shelter, water for human need. In the electronic age, information is capitalized as one very important source. The study of information seeking has become an important tool for managing the needs of the users.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sakai et. Al (2008) conducted a study on the latest information-seeking Behavior among health care consumers in Japan and compared these Behaviors with those, recorded in similar surveys administered in Japan and the United States, after 2000. Evidence indicates that Japanese health care consumers are now proactively looking for health information. These consumers feel reassured by the information that they can access and would like to read clinical research in their native language.

Genius, Shelagh (2012) concentrated on information Behavior in a context, where medical evidence is

clearly evolving (management of the menopause transition). This investigation discovered how women interact with and make sense of uncertain health information mediated by formal and informal sources. Findings revealed that four strategies were used to build a sense from health information, mediated by the many information sources, faced and opened on an everyday basis; women assumed analytic and experiential "postures"; they valued social contexts for learning and knowledge construction; information consistency was used as a heuristic representing accuracy and credibility; and an important feature of sense making was source as complementary.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Human-being is involved in certain activities which are complex and interdependent. This phenomenon gives rise to increasing need for information from some potential sources that are known to them. The information needs of library users are varied in nature. They differ qualitatively, quantitatively and geographically. They also differ with regard to intellectual level, frequency and volume of information sources required. There are unlimited producers of information. Some of them are governmental organizations; others are non-governmental agencies, institutions and industrial firms. These entire agencies add to the phenomenal growth of volume and variety of information. College library is the major source of information for college students. However, the usage pattern, attitude and behavior of students at libraries vary among them and differ from college to college. This study focused on the information seeking behavior of college students studying in physiotherapy colleges in the state of Karnataka.

SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is confined to the Information Seeking Behavior of Students of Physiotherapy colleges in Karnataka, which are affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Bangalore, Nitte, Yenepoya, and KLE Universities.

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the study are,

- To study the purpose of information seeking by the students.
- To identify the impact of internet and E-Resources while seeking information by the students.
- To study the problems faced by the students while seeking information; and
- To suggest the strategies of improving the student's information seeking behavior activities.

HYPOTHESES

- Most of the respondents are seeking information for study purpose only
- Internet and E-resources have positive impact on study activities of the respondents while seeking information.
- Most of the respondents are facing problems while seeking the information.

METHODOLOGY

The research method followed in the present study was Survey method. The researcher distributed the questionnaires among Students, and requested to fill them up. Librarians of different Physiotherapy colleges were given

several copies of the questionnaire and were requested to get them filled up by the students of their colleges.

In the present study, the data collected from the published sources and the questionnaire were evaluated and analyzed to find out the results. The data gathered was analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), and the output was checked and corrected for any typographical error.

Table 1: Distribution of Age-Wise

Age Group (Years)	No. of Students
17-18	161 (15.53)
19-20	447 (43.11)
21-22	290 (27.97)
23-24	95 (9.16)
25-26	44 (4.24)
Total	1037 (100%)

The students profile with age group wise distribution is given in Table 1. It is observed that the number of students i.e. 161(15.53) belong to the age group of 17-18 years. This is followed by 447 (43.11) of students in the age group of 19-20 Years and 290 (27.97) in the age group of 21-22 years. Comparatively, lesser number of respondents belongs to higher age groups like 23-24 years 25-26 years.

Table 2: Distribution of Class Wise

Sl. No	Class Wise	No. of Respondents	% of the Respondents
1	1 st Year BPT	315	30.38
2	2 nd Year BPT	299	28.83
3	3 rd Year BPT	179	17.26
4	4 th Year BPT	167	16.10
5	1 st Year MPT	46	4.44
6	2 nd Year MPT	31	2.99
	Total	1037	100%

Table 2 shows the year wise distribution of respondents of physiotherapy colleges in Karnataka. Out of 1037 total respondents, the highest 315 (30.38 %) of them belongs to 1st year physiotherapy students, whereas 299 (28.83 %) respondents belongs to 2nd physiotherapy students and the respondents are from 3rd physiotherapy students 179 (17.26 %). 167 (16.10%) respondents belong to 4th year physiotherapy students. 46(4.44 %) and 31 (2.99 %) respondents belong to 1st year MPT students and 2nd MPT students, respectively.

Table 3 Library Resources Up-to-Date with Current Developments in Your Fields

Seeking	BPT	MPT	Total	Chi-Square	P-Value
Reading current issues of print journals/ magazine	492(51.25)	57(74.03)	549(52.94)	14.8420	0.0001*
Reading latest books in the field	481(50.10)	55(71.43)	536(51.69)	12.9810	0.0001*
Browsing current issues of electronic journals	209(21.77)	43(55.84)	252(24.30)	44.9880	0.0001*
Searching online databases	391(40.73)	54(70.13)	445(42.91)	25.1520	0.0001*
Browsing websites of companies/ organizations	220(22.92)	29(37.66)	249(24.01)	8.4950	0.0040*
Accessing e-books	166(17.29)	39(50.65)	205(19.77)	50.0100	0.0001*
E-mail alerts from publishers	111(11.56)	18(23.38)	129(12.44)	9.1340	0.0030*
Through awareness services from library like CAS & SDI	43(4.48)	7(9.09)	50(4.82)	3.3040	0.0690
Interaction with other students and teachers	439(45.73)	50(64.94)	489(47.16)	10.5520	0.0010*
Attending conferences, workshops, etc.	319(33.23)	59(76.62)	378(36.45)	57.9460	0.0001*
Email discussion groups	70(7.29)	10(12.99)	80(7.71)	3.2480	0.0720
Any other	7(0.73)	1(1.30)	8(0.77)	0.3020	0.5830

- Out of total 1037 students, 52.94% students know about the Current Developments of Reading current issues of print journals/ magazine. Out of 52.94% students, 51.25% of BPT students and 74.03% of MPT students know about the Current Developments. The difference is found to be statistically significant (chi-square=14.8420, $p=0.0001$).
- The majority of 536 students, 51.69% know about the Current Developments Reading latest books in the field, in which 481 (50.10%) of BPT students and 55 (71.43%) of MPT students know about the Current Developments. The difference is found to be statistically significant (chi-square=12.9810, $p=0.0001$). The other details are presented in Table 3.

Table 4: Purpose of Seeking Information

Purpose	BPT	MPT	Total	Chi-Square	p-value
General awareness	650(67.71)	64(83.12)	714(68.85)	8.1970	0.0170*
Prepare the class notes	765(79.69)	61(79.22)	826(79.65)	0.0830	0.9590
Project work	591(61.56)	68(88.31)	659(63.55)	22.9240	0.0001*
Preparing answers to questions	628(65.42)	55(71.43)	683(65.86)	1.1460	0.2840
Reading/Thinking purpose	551(57.40)	56(72.73)	607(58.53)	7.2070	0.0270*
Workshop and seminar	394(41.04)	57(74.03)	451(43.49)	31.5560	0.0001*
Discussion and Recreation	371(38.65)	43(55.84)	414(39.92)	9.1790	0.0100*
Any other	8(0.83)	1(1.30)	9(0.87)	0.1790	0.6720

- A total of 714 (68.85%) students know about Seek Information through General Awareness, in which, 650 (67.71%) of BPT students and 64 (83.12%) of MPT students know about the Seek Information. The difference is found to be statistically significant (chi-square=8.1970, $p=0.0170$).
- The majority of 826 respondents (79.65%) know about the Seek Information, through Preparing the class notes, in which 765 (79.69%) of BPT students and 61 (79.22%) of MPT students know about the Seek Information. The difference is not found to be statistically significant (chi-square=0.0830, $p=0.9590$). The other details are presented in Table 4.

Table 5: Hours Spent at the Library by the Respondents

Q 16			BPT	%	MPT	%	Total	%	Chi-Square	p-Value
1	Searching journals/ magazine	<3hrs	553	57.60	44	57.14	597	57.57	30.1370	0.0001*
		4-6hrs	394	41.04	25	32.47	419	40.41		
		7-9hrs	7	0.73	4	5.19	11	1.06		
		>10hrs	6	0.63	4	5.19	10	0.96		
2	Searching for books	<3hrs	575	59.90	47	61.04	622	59.98	0.3870	0.9430
		4-6hrs	325	33.85	26	33.77	351	33.85		
		7-9hrs	37	3.85	3	3.90	40	3.86		
		>10hrs	23	2.40	1	1.30	24	2.31		
3	Interaction with friends/ teachers	<3hrs	313	32.60	34	44.16	347	33.46	7.4290	0.0590
		4-6hrs	491	51.15	36	46.75	527	50.82		
		7-9hrs	105	10.94	7	9.09	112	10.80		
		>10hrs	51	5.31	0	0.00	51	4.92		
4	Browsing e- journals on internet	<3hrs	321	33.44	36	46.75	357	34.43	12.3520	0.0060*
		4-6hrs	568	59.17	32	41.56	600	57.86		
		7-9hrs	61	6.35	6	7.79	67	6.46		
		>10hrs	10	1.04	3	3.90	13	1.25		

5	Searching online databases	<3hrs	311	32.40	40	51.95	351	33.85	24.7090	0.0001*
		4-6hrs	587	61.15	29	37.66	616	59.40		
		7-9hrs	48	5.00	3	3.90	51	4.92		
		>10hrs	14	1.46	5	6.49	19	1.83		
6	Email alerts, correspondence	<3hrs	350	36.46	53	68.83	403	38.86	34.8170	0.0001*
		4-6hrs	573	59.69	21	27.27	594	57.28		
		7-9hrs	28	2.92	1	1.30	29	2.80		
		>10hrs	9	0.94	2	2.60	11	1.06		
7	Accessing e-books	<3hrs	331	34.48	44	57.14	375	36.16	28.6830	0.0001*
		4-6hrs	581	60.52	29	37.66	610	58.82		
		7-9hrs	43	4.48	1	1.30	44	4.24		
		>10hrs	5	0.52	3	3.90	8	0.77		
8	Photocopying	<3hrs	462	48.13	55	71.43	517	49.86	15.6770	0.0010*
		4-6hrs	466	48.54	21	27.27	487	46.96		
		7-9hrs	25	2.60	1	1.30	26	2.51		
		>10hrs	7	0.73	0	0.00	7	0.68		
9	Scanning & printing	<3hrs	420	43.75	55	71.43	475	45.81	22.1110	0.0001*
		4-6hrs	511	53.23	21	27.27	532	51.30		
		7-9hrs	24	2.50	1	1.30	25	2.41		
		>10hrs	5	0.52	0	0.00	5	0.48		
		Total	960	100.00	77	100.00	1037	100.00		

- Out of a total 1037 students, 57.57% spend less than 3hrs for searching journal/magazine in which (57.60%) of BPT Students and (57.14%) of MPT students spend less than 3hrs, respectively. Followed by others students spending more than 3hrs for same. The difference is found to be statistically significant (chi-square=30.1370, p=0.0001).
- Among 622 respondents, 59.98% students spend less than 3hrs for searching for books, in which 575 (59.90%) of BPT students and 47 (61.04%) of MPT students spend less than 3hrs, respectively. Followed by others students, spending more than 3hrs for same. The difference is not found to be statistically significant (chi-square=0.3870, p=0.9430). The other details are presented in Table 5.

Table 6: Problems Faced in while Seeking Information

Q13		Summary	BPT	MPT	Total	Z-value	P-Value
1	Needed information is not available in library	Mean	2.9	2.8	2.9	-0.6500	0.5150
		SD	1.0	1.0	1.0		
2	Incomplete information in sources	Mean	3.0	3.0	3.0	-0.4510	0.6520
		SD	1.1	1.0	1.1		
3	Do not know how to use online catalogue	Mean	2.9	3.1	3.0	-0.8140	0.4160
		SD	1.2	1.2	1.2		
4	Information scattered in too many sources	Mean	2.6	2.5	2.6	-1.3920	0.1640
		SD	1.1	1.0	1.1		
5	Do not know how to use electronic resources	Mean	3.0	3.0	3.0	-0.1460	0.8840
		SD	1.3	1.4	1.3		
6	Too much information on internet	Mean	2.6	2.5	2.6	-0.2610	0.7940
		SD	1.2	1.2	1.2		
7	Lack of information skills to search	Mean	3.0	3.2	3.0	-1.3230	0.1860
		SD	1.2	1.2	1.2		

8	Internet speed is slow	Mean	2.6	2.6	2.6	-0.1780	0.8590
		SD	1.2	1.1	1.2		

- The Mean response of students of BPT (2.9 ± 1.0) and MPT (2.8 ± 1.0) in relation to problems faced while seeking on needed information is not available in the library, which is not found to be statistically significant (0.5150). It seems that the MPT Students and BPT have similar opinions.
- The Mean response of students of BPT (3.0 ± 1.1) and MPT (3.0 ± 1.0) in relation to problems faced while seeking for Incomplete information in sources in the library is not found to be statistically significant (0.6520). It seems that the MPT Students and BPT have similar opinions. The other details are presented in Table 6.

Table 7: Environment Affect while Seeking Information

Affect	BPT	MPT	Total	Chi-Square	P-Value
Information overloaded	353(36.77)	29(37.66)	382(36.84)	0.0240	0.8760
Changing ICT environment	82(8.54)	7(9.09)	89(8.58)	0.0270	0.8690
Changing pattern of new syllabus	271(28.23)	33(42.86)	304(29.32)	7.3610	0.0070*
Cross questions raised others	224(23.33)	24(31.17)	248(23.92)	2.4050	0.1210
Extra work given by teachers	329(34.27)	32(41.56)	361(34.81)	1.6680	0.1960
Different types of sources developed in library	156(16.25)	19(24.68)	175(16.88)	3.6070	0.0580
Any other	2(0.21)	0(0.00)	2(0.19)	0.1610	0.6880

The result of the above Table 7 represents the opinions of students with respect to the environment affecting information needs and information seeking behavior. It shows that,

- Out of a total 1037 students 382 (36.84%) students are affected on information needs and information seeking Behavior on Information overloaded, in which 353 (36.77%) of BPT Students and 29 (36.84%) of MPT students are affected on information needs and information seeking Behavior. The difference is not found to be statistically significant (chi-square=0.0240, p=0.8760).
- A total of 89 (8.58%) students are affected on information needs and information seeking Behavior on Changing ICT environment, in which 82 (8.54%) of BPT students and 7 (9.09%) of MPT students are affected on information needs and information seeking Behavior. The difference is not found to be statistically significant (chi-square=0.0270, p=0.8690). The other details are presented in Table 7.

MAJOR SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- A total of 1200 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which an overwhelming i.e. 1037 questionnaire were received back with a response rate 86.41%.
- Among the 1037 respondents, out of which the highest 315 of them belong to 1st Year BPT (30.38%), whereas 299 respondents belong to 2nd Year BPT (28.83%) and 179 respondents are from 3rd Year BPT (30.38%) (Table 2, Page No.4).
- Out of 52.94% students, 51.25% of BPT students and 74.03% of MPT students know about the Current Developments of Reading current issues of print journals/ magazine. The majority of 536 respondents (51.69%) students know about the Current Developments Reading latest books in the field, in which 481 (50.10%) of BPT students and 55 (71.43%) of MPT students know about the Current Developments. (Table 3, Page No.5).

- The majority of 826 students (79.65%) know about the Seek Information through Prepare the class notes, in which 765 (79.69%) of BPT students and 61 (79.22%) of MPT students know about the Seek Information. Whereas, the total of 714 (68.85%) students know about the Seek Information through General Awareness, in which 650 (67.71%) of BPT students and 64 (83.12%) of MPT students know about the Seek Information. (Table 4, Page No.7).

CONCLUSIONS

This study has covered overall opinion of the students about reading materials, resources, ICT facilities, internet, sources and services in the library. The survey proceeded in the right direction to know about the Information Seeking Behavior of the Students and improvement in Physiotherapy College libraries in the state.

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